

sister states, to afford cause for a well grounded apprehension of detriment to the Union, by an improper combination amongst its members. Even at this critical emergency in our public affairs, when so much discredit is apprehended to the sacred cause of the state rights, from the excesses of South Carolina, the confidence of the committee in the correctness of that cause is strengthened by the exemplary conduct of her sister states. When we witness the fervent zeal that pervades them all, and see so many who have the same cause of complaint as South Carolina, and who are equally solicitous for a redress of their grievances, rising superior to local interests, exhibiting to the world the most sublime spectacle of devoted patriotism, and throwing their great moral and physical weight into the scale of the Union, who can doubt that now, as in the late war, the federal arm, in the hour of its greatest peril, will be upheld by the state authorities? The committee are cheered by this animating indication of fidelity, not merely because they see in it the unequivocal evidence of the safety of that Union which they so highly cherish, but on account of the favorable influence which the complete establishment of the principles to which they have avowed their attachment, is calculated to exercise on the future administration of this government. In "the support of the state governments in all their rights as the most competent administrators of our domestic concerns and the surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies: and the preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet-anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad," the committee recognise the highest duties of every public functionary; and in the encouragement derived from the approving voice of a virtuous and a grateful people, the best security for their faithful performance.

On the deeply interesting questions arising upon the Ordinance and other documents referred to the committee, there is none of more immediate importance, than the claim which is advanced, that a single state has a right to withdraw herself, against the wishes of her co-states, from the Union, whenever, in her sole judgment, the acts of the Federal Government shall be such as to justify the step.

The committee cannot approve this doctrine. Anxious as they are to sustain the sovereignty of the states in its full force, they do not feel it to be less their duty to "preserve," in the language of Mr. Jefferson, "the General Government, in its whole constitutional vigor" There is no conflict of duty between these sentiments; so far from it,